UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/110
6 February 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter of 22 January 1995 (S/1995/69), I have the honour to inform you that United States forces in the Arabian Gulf are continuing their acts of aggression and provocation against the Iraqi vessel Al-Tharthar, which is assigned to carry water and fuel.

At 1345 hours on 19 January 1995, the commander of United States frigate No. 48, on station close to the Iraqi port of Mina' al-Bakr, called to the vessel Al-Tharthar with the demand that its captain provide information concerning the tanker and its crew. At 1415 hours the captain of the vessel was instructed to proceed at low speed, and it was escorted on its way by a boat accompanied by a helicopter. A demand was made that the members of the crew be brought out on deck so that they could be seen and their number verified. A force of 19 men was then sent across in a rubber boat, and 17 of them boarded Al-Tharthar. The members of the force were armed with light weapons and carried flashlights, radio equipment, video cameras and still cameras. They deployed in various parts of the vessel and one group mounted to the bridge, where one of them required the captain to produce documents establishing the ownership of the vessel, its cargo and its specifications. The relevant certificates were provided to him. They then proceeded to photograph various parts of the ship and to film it with the video cameras, both from the deck and from the helicopter. They proceeded to search the ship and its tanks, took samples of the water being carried as cargo and of the gas oil and inspected all of its papers and cargo. They then returned to the frigate.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq protests in the strongest terms against the repetition of such unlawful acts of aggression by the Government of the United States of America against Iraq. They are in flagrant violation of Iraq's security and national sovereignty, and they represent a breach of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law. We request you to intervene in order to prevent any recurrence of unwarranted actions that threaten peace and security in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative